

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

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FOLLOWING REPEAT USINFO O 121935Z DEC 74 SENT STATE OPS CENTER
INFO WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM FOR JANKA

QUOTE

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STATE OPS CENTER FOR IMMEDIATE DELIVERY TO DAVID GOMPERT
FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER

NATO MEETING-IV (TAKE ONE OF TWO)

FOLLOWING IS A REPORT OF FOREIGN MEDIA REACTION AS OF NOON
EST DECEMBER 12, 1974 PREPARED BY USIA.

SUMMARY: IN THE INTERVAL BETWEEN THE NATO DEFENSE MINISTERS'
MEETING AND THE GATHERING OF THE FOREIGN MINISTERS, FOREIGN
MEDIA THURSDAY STRESSED THE SERIOUS PROBLEMS BETWEEN THE
NATO COUNTRIES, REFERRING TO POSSIBLE FORCE REDUCTIONS, THE
PROBLEM OF TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS, AND, ESPECIALLY, ENERGY,
ECONOMIC AND INFLATIONARY PROBLEMS WITHIN MEMBER COUNTRIES.
WRITERS FOUND LITTLE ABOUT WHICH TO BE OPTIMISTIC. END SUMMARY.

LONDON: THE BRITISH PRESS CONCENTRATED ITS NATO COMMENT
ON FORCE REDUCTIONS AND TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS. FINANCIAL
TIMES DEFENSE CORRESPONDENT MALCOLM RUTHERFORD SAID, "THE
WESTERN POSITION IN THE VIENNA TALKS ON EAST-WEST FORCE
REDUCTIONS HAS BEEN REDUCED TO A SHAMBLES AS A RESULT OF
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DUTCH PROPOSALS THAT THE TALKS BE EXTENDED TO INCLUDE TACTICAL

NUCLEAR WEAPONS...THE ATTITUDE OF THE U.S. TO THE PROPOSALS REMAINS HIGHLY AMBIGUOUS...THE U.S. IS ALREADY UNDER DOMESTIC PRESSURE TO MAKE CUTS IN ITS TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS, QUITE APART FROM ANYTHING THAT MAY BE NEGOTIATED IN MBFR."

GUARDIAN CORRESPONDENT DAVID FAIRHILL SAID THAT "IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER THE RUSSIANS, WHO HAVE ALWAYS WANTED TO BROADEN THE SCOPE OF THE (MBFR) NEGOTIATIONS, WILL TRY TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE UNDERLYING BREAK IN THE UNIFIED ALLIED FRONT THAT HAS EMERGED THIS WEEK."

THE DAILY EXPRES SAID AMERICA "WAVED THE BIG STICK AT ITS NATO ALLIES YESTERDAY" CONCERNING THEIR DEFENSE CUTBACKS. "THE ALERT CAME FROM U.S. DEFENSE SECRETARY SCHLESINGER... BUT THE EUROPEANS TOLD HIM ANY EXTRA MILITARY EFFORT WAS UN-THINKABLE." A SIMILAR LINE WAS USED BY THE DAILY MAIL, WHILE THE DAILY TELEGRAPH SAID DR. SCHLESINGER "EMPHASIZED THAT NATO'S STRATEGY MUST ADJUST TO THE LOSS BY THE U.S. OF HER FORMER WORLDWIDE MILITARY PREDOMINANCE."

THE TIMES DISCUSSED THE DUTCH PROPOSAL AND STATED, "THERE SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN A GENERAL FEELING AT THE MEETING THAT SOME DAY THE WHOLE SUBJECT OF TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS MIGHT WELL HAVE TO BE INTRODUCED INTO THE TALKS ON MUTUAL BALANCED FORCE REDUCTIONS IN VIENNA. BUT THE TIME IS NOT NOW."

PARIS: FRANCE-SOIR ASKED IF A "LESSER PROTECTION OF THE OLD CONTINENT IS THE PRICE WHICH WASHINGTON IS PREPARED TO PAY IN THE NAME OF EAST-WEST DETENTE OR RATHER OF A MERICAN-SOVIET DETENTE" AND THEN WENT ON TO PREDICT THAT IN HIS SPEECH, DR. KISSINGER "WILL PROPOSE A GLOBAL POLICY: IT IS THE WHOLE WESTERN WORLD THAT HAS TO FIND COMMON SOLUTIONS TO THE PROPOSELS POSED BY INFLATION, ENERGY AND THE DEFENSE OF THE WEST. IN THESE DESIGNES, EUROPE EVIDENTLY HAS ITS PLACE, BUT NOT MUCH MORE THAN ITS PLACE."

AUORE SAID "INFLATION AND CYPRUS ARE THE BRAIN-RACKING TASK FOR THE ATLANTIC COUNCIL OF THE 15...FOR THE AMERICANS, HOWEVER, THE MAJOR ATLANTIC PROBLEMS ARE INFLATION AND THE SO-CALLED ARMS DEAL OF THE CENTURY." THE PAPER THEN WENT ON TO DISCUSS DR. SCHLESINGER'S SUGGESTION THAT NATO COUNTRIES PURCHASE U.S. MILITARY EQUIPMENT AND SAID, "THIS IS A DECISION WHICH THE FRENCH WILL JUDGE EXCESSIVE."

FIGARO SAW ECONOMIC AND FINACIAL PROLEMS AND THE ENERGY CRISIS AS DOMINATING THE FOREIGN MINISTERS' DISCUSSIONS AND UNCLASSIFIED

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REMARKED THAT "AMERICAN EFFORTS TO PROMOTE A CYPRUS SOLUTION DO NOT SEEM TO HAVE BORNE FRUIT."

BONN: THE WEST GERMAN PRESS GAVE EXTENSIVE COVERAGE TO THE NATO TALKS. REPORTS STRESSED DR. SCHLESINGER'S STATMENT THAT NATO'S NUCLEAR POTENTIAL IN EUROPE WILL BE MAINTAINED AS LONG AS THE NUCLEAR THREAT FROM THE EAST CONTINUES; THAT DR. SCHLESINGER "DAMPENED HOPES" FOR U.S. ARMS PURCHASES IN EUROPE; THAT EUROPEAN NATO PARTNERS OPPOSED DR. SCHLESINGER'S

REQUEST FOR INCREASING DEFENSE EXPENDITURES AND THAT "BASIC DIFFERENCES OF VIEW" BETWEEN THE U.S. AND THE EUROPEAN NATO PARTNERS BECAME VISIBLE IN REGARD TO ADJUSTING THE STRATEGY OF FLEXIBLE RESPONSE TO THE "CHANGING SECURITY SITUATION."

INDEPENDENT KOELNER STADT-ANZEIGER EDITORIALIZED THAT "SCHLESINGER AND LEBER PLAYED A SPECIAL ROLE IN THE MILITARY PART OF THE NATO SESSIONS. THEIR TWO COUNTRIES TODAY ARE-- EVEN IF BONN STILL ACTS COY--THE ALLIANCE'S STRONGEST PILLARS... SCHLESINGER SHOWED IN HIS PRESS CONFERENCE...THAT HE CAN REACT WITH UTTER SELF-ASSURANCE--AND ALONG WITH IT, CONVINCING PRECISION...THAT IS THE MORE IMPRESSIVE INASMUCH AS SCHLESINGER MADE NO ATTEMPT TO DODGE FACTS WHEN HE FELT THAT HERE OR THERE U.S. INTERESTS PREVAIL OVER THOSE OF EUROPE. HE PAID NO HEED TO FEELINGS ABOUT TRANSATLANTIC ARMS-INDUSTRY RIVALRY AND DISPUTES ABOUT TACTICAL ATOMIC WEAPONS IN EUROPE."

AN EDITORIAL IN THE WEEKLY INDEPENDENT DIE ZEIT DISCUSSED A "WEAKENED NATO UNDER INFLATIONARY PRESSURE." IT SAID, "WASHINGTON WOULD JUST AS SOON AVE ALL WESTERN EUROPE BLANKETED BY FRG'S MILITARY CLOAK... MOSCOW, AS A PRECAUTION, PLAYS UP THE GERMAN MILITARY MIGHT AS A POTENTIAL DANGER FOR EUROPE, THE BETTER TO IMPROVE THE STAGE SETTING FOR THE VIENNA MBFR TALKS... AS FOR FINANCING NATO AFTER THE END OF 1975... AMERICA WOULD LIKE TO DECREASE CONSIDERABLY ITS 24-PER CENT SHARE OF INFRASTRUCTURE COSTS. ...THE ONLY NATO MEMBER WILLING TO DISCUSS IT IS, ONCE AGAIN, THE FRG--AND IT DOES NOT WANT TO BE THE ONLY ONE TO COME THROUGH WITH A BIGGER SHARE."

PRO-CDU FRANKFURTER NEUE PRESSE SAID "SOME NATO MEMBERS ARE UP TO THEIR NECKS IN FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES," BUT THE PAPER SAW NO HOPE FOR EARLY BUDGETARY RELIEF.

BOTH WEST GERMAN TELEVISION NETWORKS CARRIED REPORTS FROM THEIR BRUSSELS CORRESPONDENTS: FIRST NETWORK SAID, "APPARENTLY FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 20 YEARS, THE ALLIANCE TAKES TIS OWN WARNINGS SERIOUSLY. MOTIVATED BY PURE FINANCIAL TROUBLE RATHER UNCLASSIFIED

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THAN INNER CONVICTION, THE MINISTERS ARE FINALLY FORCED TO RATIONALIZE." SECOND NETWORK COMMENTED THAT THE ALLIANCE IS MORE OCCUPIED WITH ITS OWN PROBLEMS RATHER THAN THOSE FROM THE OUTSIDE. ACTUALLY, COOPERATION WITHIN NATO NEEDS CONSIDERABLE IMPROVEMENT.

(END TAKE
ONE). UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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